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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VILCHEZ ASHER (Nicaragua)

later: Mr. ABELIAN (Armenia)
(Vice-Chairman)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 116: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997 (continued) (A/50/6 Rev.1 (Vol. I and II), A/50/7 and A/50/16)

First reading (continued)

Section 10A. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Section 10B. International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT

Section 11. United Nations Environment Programme

Section 12. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

Section 13. Crime control

Section 14. International drug control

1. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), presenting the Advisory Committee's recommendations on sections 10A, 10B, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, said that, with regard to section 10A (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), the Advisory Committee noted that the General Assembly had reaffirmed the role of UNCTAD as the appropriate focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development (A/50/7, para. IV.29).

2. The Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of the proposal that a temporary D-2 post dealing with transnational corporations activities should be converted to established status (para. IV.31). Several high-level posts in UNCTAD including that of Secretary-General, had been vacant when the Advisory Committee had considered the estimates; that situation must be rectified in view of its possible impact on the programme of work of UNCTAD. The Advisory Committee recommended that provision should be made from within existing resources for a P-4 post relating to the sustainable development of small island developing States; that post had been inadvertently left out of the budget presentation on UNCTAD. The Advisory Committee, noting the proliferation of publications issued by UNCTAD, also recommended that the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD should become involved in an in-depth review of the matter on an urgent basis (para. IV.36).

3. In connection with section 10B (International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT), he noted that UNCTAD and GATT were jointly responsible, in an equal partnership, for the International Trade Centre. There would be a need to examine the extent to which that arrangement would be affected by the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Any change in the current arrangement would be reported on separately. The Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of the proposal for an additional P-4 post for activities relating to the follow-up to the Uruguay Round (para. IV.39).

4. With regard to section 11 (United Nations Environment Programme) and section 12 (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)), the Advisory Committee welcomed the efforts of the Executive Director of UNEP to limit documentation. In that connection, he pointed out that, in its decision 18/44 B, the Governing Council of UNEP, had requested the donors to trust funds to abide strictly by the terms of the trust funds and recommended that every effort should be made to reduce expenditure on the administration of trust funds; in its decision 18/45, it had requested the Executive Director to keep under review the financial viability of establishing a team of interpreters at Nairobi; and, in its decision 18/49, it had indicated that consultancies should be awarded only after it had been ascertained that no in-house expertise was available. Lastly, in its decision 18/47, it had decided that the agreement on the Mercure satellite telecommunications system should be submitted to the General Assembly for endorsement in accordance with United Nations procedures. In that regard, be noted that in the past, some recommendations submitted to the General Assembly had not been dealt with in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure, even though their implementation might have had considerable financial implications. The Secretariat should take appropriate action. The Advisory Committee would comment on the Mercure satellite system after reviewing the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations telecommunications project.

5. The Advisory Committee noted that the administrative support previously provided for separately under Habitat and UNEP had been consolidated under section 26H (Administration, Nairobi). In its decision 18/43 on the establishment of a United Nations Office in Nairobi, however, the Governing Council of UNEP had indicated that the separate identities and equal status of the two organizations should be maintained.

6. In connection with section 13 (Crime control), he said that it had become apparent to the Advisory Committee that there was a need to review the nomenclature used for the organizational structure under that section, since the heads of some divisions were at the D-1 level while others were at the D-2 level. In the absence of a clear definition of the role of the Director-General of the United Nations office at Vienna vis-à-vis the various specialized units at Vienna, it was difficult for the Advisory Committee to determine whether the upgrading of the post of Chief of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch from the D-1 to the D-2 level was justified; the matter should be deferred pending additional clarification. Moreover, given the inadequate definition of the functions to be performed by the two additional P-3 posts requested, the Advisory Committee recommended the establishment of only one such post (para. IV.51).

7. With regard to section 14 (International drug control), he noted that most of the posts were funded from extrabudgetary resources. More effort should have been made to indicate the sources of funding for the various activities mentioned in the narrative. The Advisory Committee recommended the establishment of only one P-3 post (para. IV.56). It also believed that the total amount proposed for travel was high and should be kept under strict control (para. IV.58).

8. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider sections 10 through 14 section by section.

Section 10A. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

9. Mrs. ARAGON (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, reaffirmed the role of UNCTAD as an important focal point and the sole entity with the capacity to act as a think-tank on global development issues with an emphasis on the concerns of developing countries. UNCTAD had attained still greater relevance after the conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the creation of WTO and had an important role to play in providing developing countries with an analysis of the impact of the Uruguay Round agreements.

10. There was no overlapping of functions between UNCTAD and WTO: WTO was primarily devoted to the implementation of contractual obligations in international trade, whereas UNCTAD had a broader role in providing a development perspective in international trade of deliberations. The two roles complemented each other. The Group of 77 and China remained strongly committed to the strengthening of UNCTAD and had noted with concern that the proposed level of resources might not be adequate to enable the Conference to meet its obligations. In that regard, she was concerned at the omission of the P-4 post in connection with small island developing States.

11. Mr. RAMLAL (Trinidad and Tobago), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community, said that he fully agreed with the representative of the Philippines that there appeared to be inadequate provision in the proposed programme budget for UNCTAD. There was a need to restore the balance between peace-keeping and other activities. His delegation would welcome an explanation of how UNCTAD could discharge its responsibilities with reduced resources, particularly given the aims of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

12. Mrs. NHLABATSI (Swaziland) said that her delegation supported the statement by the representative of the Philippines. UNCTAD was critical to the economic survival of developing countries, particularly in Africa. She requested clarification of the proposed conversion of a temporary D-2 post to established status, and asked why the post of Secretary-General of UNCTAD had been vacant for so long, on what terms the officer-in-charge had been employed, and why some posts had been filled by staff at a lower level receiving special post allowances. That situation must have an impact on the efficiency of UNCTAD, and must be rectified. Her delegation was concerned at the suggestion that there was duplication in publications. She appealed for adequate resources to be allocated in connection with the ninth session of the Conference, scheduled to take place in South Africa in April 1996.

13. Ms. BUERGO (Cuba) said that section 10A was of great importance in the coordination of activities for developing countries, and that her delegation fully supported the statements made by the representatives of the Philippines and Trinidad and Tobago. She welcomed the appointment, after a lengthy delay, of a Secretary-General of UNCTAD, but expressed her concern at the impact of the budget proposals now before the Committee; there were many vacant posts at UNCTAD, and that situation might well have an impact on its work and mandate. The omission of the P-4 post for follow-up to the Barbados Programme of Action was disquieting. Moreover, further clarification should be provided regarding the conversion of a temporary D-2 post to established status. Her delegation

was committed to the activities of UNCTAD; its role remained valid in that it was complementary to that of the World Trade Organization.

14. Mrs. SHEAROUSE (United States of America) said that too many resources were being proposed for UNCTAD, which had a top-heavy structure and needed to improve its efficiency. Her delegation did not support the proposed conversion of the temporary D-2 post to established status. There was a clear need to eliminate duplication of activities within UNCTAD and between UNCTAD and other organizations in the United Nations system, with a view to achieving efficiency gains. Noting, for example, that some $18.5 million was allocated for programme support, she wondered whether any effort had been made at coordination in respect of common services at Geneva. There was also duplication in certain areas with the work of the regional economic commissions. With regard to publications, she asked whether UNCTAD publication activities had been evaluated with a view, again, to preventing duplication.

15. Mr. GOKHALE (India) said that his delegation supported the statement by the representative of the Philippines. The recent meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in Cartagena had reaffirmed the importance of UNCTAD and of allowing it to discharge its mandate. The budget for UNCTAD should reflect the requirements that would emerge at the ninth session of the Conference. Furthermore, there had never been a monopoly within the United Nations in terms of dealing with trade issues. For example, the International Monetary Fund had long played a role in that domain, and UNCTAD would continue to have a valid role following the establishment of the World Trade Organization.

16. Mr. JU Kuilin (China) said that his delegation fully agreed with the statement made by the representative of the Philippines on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It attached great importance to the resource allocation for economic development and associated issues under section 10A and was concerned to note that it had been reduced without a legislative mandate or any analysis of the possible adverse impact on programmes. China could not share the view of some delegations that there was duplication or overlapping with other programmes. Those delegations should adduce facts in support of their arguments rather than making unilateral claims. It would be a mistake to scale down or phase out important development and trade programmes on such a pretext. His delegation was particularly concerned that resource reductions might adversely affect follow-up action to the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. In that connection, it supported the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for the restoration of the P-4 post for UNCTAD.

17. Mr. ODAGA-JALOMAYO (Uganda) said that his delegation wished to be associated with the statement made by the representative of the Philippines on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and also with the statements made by the representatives of Swaziland, Cuba, India and China.

18. Every aspect of the budget should be closely scrutinized. With regard to the proposed reduction of over $2.9 million in the appropriation for UNCTAD, his delegation felt that those resources could have been redeployed, for example to the programme for least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, which was consistently underfunded. It feared that the reduction might

adversely affect the ability of UNCTAD to follow up the recommendations of the high-level meeting on the mid-term review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.

19. The Committee was being informed on an ex post facto basis of redeployments between programmes that had taken place during the 1994-1995 biennium. He wondered why it had not been given a chance to examine the desirability of such action in advance.

20. His delegation, like that of Swaziland would like to know why a number of posts at UNCTAD, in particular the post of Secretary-General, had remained vacant for such a long period. It also wished to know how the programme of work had been affected by the filling of certain posts by staff at a lower level.

21. Lastly his delegation supported the restoration to the staffing table of the P-4 post inadvertently omitted from the budget presentation on UNCTAD.

22. Mr. FATTAH (Egypt) said that his delegation wished to be associated with the statement made by the representative of the Philippines on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. As the representative of India had said, the developing countries had expressed strong support for UNCTAD in the declaration adopted at the recent meeting of the movement of Non-Aligned Countries in Cartagena. His delegation welcomed the appointment of a new Secretary-General of UNCTAD, under whose leadership it trusted that UNCTAD would become a valuable instrument for the economic advancement of the developing countries.

23. Some delegations took the view that UNCTAD had become superfluous when the World Trade Organization (WTO) had been established. On the contrary, UNCTAD was the key negotiating forum in the field of trade and development and would continue to play that role however strident its critics. It was qualified to serve as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) of the developing countries.

24. Mr. KOUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) noted that the programme budget proposals for UNCTAD were strongly influenced by the new mandates it had been given in 1994 by the Trade and Development Board, particularly in connection with the conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the establishment of WTO. In his delegation's view, the resources proposed for the biennium 1996-1997 were both realistic and sufficient to allow UNCTAD to fulfil its mandates. It supported rationalization through the abolition of General Service posts that had been made redundant by automation, as well as the modest increase in funds for the programme of work.

25. It also supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations that a temporary D-2 post dealing with transnational corporation activities should be converted to established status (A/50/7, para. IV.31) and that provision should be made for a P-4 post in the area of sustainable development of small island developing States (para. IV.33).

26. His delegation urged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to reduce temporary auxiliary personnel and to rationalize the structure of expenditure and UNCTAD activities in general in order to make additional savings.

27. It agreed with the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an in-depth review of the UNCTAD publications programme to assess its usefulness and to ensure that there was no duplication of material published by other entities within the United Nations system.

28. Although his delegation recognized that a certain vacancy level was unavoidable, it agreed with ACABQ that the situation at UNCTAD where several high-level posts had remained vacant for long periods or had been filled by staff at a lower level needed to be examined and rectified (para. IV.32). In that connection, the Secretariat should take into account the views of Member States concerning the importance of particular programmes of activities.

29. Mr. TOYA (Japan) said that UNCTAD still had an important role to play in such areas as the impact of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round on the least developed countries, trade efficiency, investment promotion, South-South cooperation and research, and technical assistance. That role could be enhanced if UNCTAD were to evolve into a more constructive policy forum, implementing its activities in a more efficient and effective manner and continuing to work for reform, especially with a view to avoiding duplication with other bodies, including WTO.

30. His delegation commended the effort to reduce the budget level before recosting. A further effort at rationalization was, however, required, particularly through prioritization of programmes and a review of the publications programme.

31. Mr. KOSY (Ukraine) said that his delegation attached great importance to the more active involvement in world trade of developing countries and economies in transition. It therefore supported the programme budget proposals for UNCTAD for the biennium 1996-1997. It also welcomed the measures designed to rationalize the use of financial resources during that period.

32. All Member States should be accorded equal opportunities within the framework of UNCTAD. In particular, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe that were in the process of transition to a market economy depended on foreign trade as one of their main sources of foreign exchange.

33. His delegation also attached great importance to activities under subprogramme 8: privatization, entrepreneurship and competitiveness. An increase in appropriations for that subprogramme would ease the task of those Member States which were endeavouring to reform their economies.

34. Mr. MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil) said that his delegation wished to be associated with the statement made by the representative of the Philippines on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. UNCTAD was facing a new set of challenges following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the establishment of WTO. His delegation considered that the mandates of UNCTAD and WTO did not overlap but were complementary. There was no evidence that the broader role of UNCTAD on behalf of trade and development was duplicated anywhere else in the United Nations system.

35. The ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, scheduled for 1996, would provide an excellent opportunity for a review of mandates to ensure that they were in keeping with the new challenges. UNCTAD should not have its resources curtailed; they should, rather, be enhanced to meet those challenges.

36. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that, under the proposed programme budget for UNCTAD, there had been a significant redeployment of human and other resources from administrative to substantive activities. Moreover, within the substantive programmes, there had been a shift from low-priority to high-priority areas. All modifications were strictly in line with the decisions of the Trade Development Board. Additional support had been accorded to international competition, poverty alleviation, regional integration, privatization, trade efficiency and science and technology, at the expense of some other activities.

37. A highly qualified candidate with strong leadership qualities had been appointed Secretary-General of UNCTAD in September 1995. Prior to his appointment, the officer-in-charge had discharged his duties extremely well.

38. With regard to resource reductions, table 10A.1 in the proposed programme budget (A/50/6/Rev.1) showed an overall reduction of approximately $2.9 million. The reduction of about $500,000 for policy-making organs reflected the fact that many preparatory regional working groups for the ninth session of the Conference had already met during the current biennium. The reduction of $1.8 million for executive direction and management and of $1.2 million for programme support reflected the abolition of seven General Service posts as a result of technological improvements. There had been no impact on the substantive programme.

39. The omission of the P-4 post for activities relating to the sustainable development of small island developing States had been an oversight and would be rectified, as recommended by ACABQ.

40. With regard to the D-2 post dealing with transnational corporations activities, two years previously the Secretary-General had proposed that a D-2 post for trade relations between socialist countries and developing countries should be abolished when the corresponding programme was abolished. The Fifth Committee had, however decided to redeploy that post temporarily to the transnational corporations area. The current proposal was that it should be converted into an established post.

41. With regard to the streamlining of the UNCTAD publications programme with a view to avoiding potential duplication, an in-depth review of the matter had been initiated and should be concluded by mid-1996.

42. Mr. ODAGA-JALOMAYO (Uganda) asked whether the vacant posts mentioned in paragraph IV.32 of the ACABQ report had been filled and, if so what their geographical distribution was. He also wondered how the Secretariat intended to follow up the mid-term review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.

43. Mr. BLACKMAN (Barbados) welcomed the assurance given by the Controller that the recommendation made by ACABQ in paragraph IV.33 of its report would be carried out. He asked for confirmation that resources would be available to implement the provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/122.

44. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that it took time to fill vacant posts with the best qualified candidates. The situation described in paragraph IV.32 of the ACABQ report had improved, but a limited number of vacancies were still under recruitment. He understood that the P-4 post referred to in paragraph IV.33 of the same report would be filled through redeployment.

Section 10B. International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT

45. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the absence of comments on section 10B, he would take it that the Committee had completed the first reading of that section of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 and decided to refer it to informal consultations for further consideration and appropriate action.

Section 11. United Nations Environment Programme

46. Mr. ONGERI (Kenya), supported by Mr. FONTOURRA (Brazil), Mr. FATTAH (Egypt), Mr. DJACTA (Algeria), and Ms. BUERGO (Cuba), said that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was one of the leading United Nations agencies in matters relating to the environment. Given the many environmental challenges with which the world was currently faced, UNEP had an important role to play in environmental management and in institution- and capacity-building, particularly in the industrial, transportation and energy sectors. Any savings realized through more efficient management should therefore be redirected towards the strengthening of programmes. He did not understand why the P-5 post had been eliminated at a time when the stated objective was to strengthen the Programme's capacity.

47. Mr. ODAGA-JALOMAYO (Uganda), supporting the position taken by the representative of Kenya, expressed surprise that the conference services resources of UNEP should be reduced precisely at a time when the Programme's role was being expanded to enable it to follow up the implementation of Agenda 21 and other international agreements in the field of the environment. The decision to reduce the allocation of resources to UNEP must be reviewed in the light of the broadening of its mandate.

48. With regard to the proposed abolition of the P-5 post, he wondered why that post had remained vacant for four years and what impact that vacancy had had on the Programme's activities. In his view, it would be better to redeploy the post to another priority area in the programme of work of UNEP.

49. His delegation agreed on the need to reduce the volume of documentation, but believed that the length of documents should be decided on a case-by-case basis and should reflect the value of the document in question to the decision-making process.

50. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the proposals currently before the Committee had been made after close consultations with the Executive Director of

UNEP and that the full programmatic implications of the proposed reductions had already been taken into account. Savings had been realized by reducing the cost of temporary assistance to the Governing Council and by the use of remote translation facilities.

51. With regard to the P-5 post, UNEP was satisfied that it had an adequate number of experts to carry out its programme of work in the field of energy. He recalled that when UNEP had been created, the General Assembly had assumed responsibility only for the funding of a small secretariat to serve as a focal point for environmental action and coordination within the United Nations system. Programme activities were the responsibility of the Environment Fund. Even though the international community had in recent years adopted several conventions relating to the environment, those commitments were outside the scope of the regular budget of the Organization.

52. Mr. ONGERI (Kenya), referring to the question of savings through technological innovation, said that Kenya had invested in the creation of electronic mail capacity in order to enhance the efficiency of the work of UNEP. The savings thus realized should be allocated to other priority areas, given the importance of the Programme's work, particularly to developing countries. In that connection, the P-5 post which it was proposed to abolish should be reassigned to another priority area, such as poverty alleviation, drought and desertification, or fresh water supply. His delegation was concerned that such decisions represented a quiet attempt to whittle down the Programme at a time when its role was becoming increasingly important.

Section 12. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

53. Mr. DJACTA (Algeria) said that it was important that the necessary resources should be made available for the adequate preparation of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

54. Mr. ODAGA-JALOMAYO (Uganda) said that the reduction in resource allocations to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) should not jeopardize the preparations for Habitat II. Adequate resources must also be made available for the follow-up to the Conference's decisions. He would welcome clarification of the point raised in the Advisory Committee's report concerning the figures in the staffing table for the biennium 1996-1997 (A/50/7, para. IV.45).

55. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the proposed budget allocations accurately reflected the Centre's programme of work. The expenditure relating to the regional preparatory meetings already held in connection with Habitat II had been reflected in the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Resources could be allocated only on the basis of legislative mandates approved by the General Assembly. No provision could therefore be made for follow-up action before the Conference had even taken place.

Section 13. Crime control

56. Ms. INCERA (Costa Rica) said that the proposals to upgrade the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch to a division, to upgrade the post of

Chief of the Branch to the D-2 level, and to establish two additional P-3 posts were fully justified in the light of the work being done by the Branch, which was crucial to efforts to combat the globalization of criminal activity. A balance must therefore be ensured between the level of resource allocations and the expanded mandate of the Branch.

57. Ms. SHENWICK (United States of America) said that, even though the United States recognized the importance of the activities of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, the Branch did not currently merit upgrading to a division. By far the greater part of its budgetary allocation was spent on overheads and staff, leaving very little for law enforcement programmes. The Branch's crime-based activities were mostly limited to providing documentation for United Nations meetings.

58. Her Government's support for the proposal to upgrade the Branch would depend on the establishment and implementation of a number of benchmarks: first, the Branch should fully implement the strategic management plan which established priority themes, prior to its convening of the quinquennial United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; second, it should fully observe the requirement that sponsoring States or the Secretariat should provide project data for all proposed resolutions; third, it should prepare a timely, written programme budget impact statement before any resolution was considered by the Fifth Committee; finally, the Branch should demonstrate that it had carried out significant substantive activities in fulfilment of its current mandate.

59. The United States would convey to the United Nations its assessment of the progress achieved towards establishing and meeting the above benchmarks before it could consider whether it would support the upgrading of the Branch. It also supported the Advisory Committee's request for additional information to enable it to consider the Secretary-General's proposals.

60. Mr. MUÑOZ (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the work of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch was important to efforts to combat crime and the European Union welcomed the proposals for the strengthening of the Branch. It was, however, important for the Secretariat to respond as early as possible to the various questions raised by the Advisory Committee on section 13 of the proposed programme budget.

61. Mr. HANSON (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said it was important to respond effectively to the challenges posed by crime and he therefore supported the proposal that the Branch should be upgraded to a division, subject to the concerns raised by the Advisory Committee being met, particularly the need to define the role of the United Nations Office at Vienna. It was unfortunate that the Advisory Committee had had to repeat its request for the information it needed.

62. Ms. BUERGO (Cuba) said that adequate resources must be provided for the elaboration and implementation of crime control activities during the biennium 1996-1997 and for the implementation of the recommendations of the Ninth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. She wished to draw attention to the growing phenomenon of the international trafficking in

minors in which organized criminal groups were often involved. Finally, it was inappropriate to establish a linkage between the provision of technical assistance and advisory services to States and the promotion of the rule of law, sound public administration and good governance on the part of receiving States.

63. Mr. GODA (Japan) said that, in view of the importance of section 13, his delegation supported the strengthening of the activities of the United Nations in the field by the upgrading of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch to a division and the establishment of two additional P-3 posts. Certain crime control follow-up activities were still before another Main Committee of the General Assembly and could have programme budget implications which would require additional resources. In that event, his delegation reserved the right to revert to the issue.

64. Mr. ODAGA-JALOMAYO (Uganda) supported strengthening the crime control activities of the United Nations and endorsed the provision of increased resources at both the global and the regional level. In that connection, the United Nations should take a leading role in financing crime control activities and entities in Africa.

65. His delegation would appreciate further information regarding the role of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, as mentioned in paragraph IV.49 of the Advisory Committee's report A/50/7, with a view to avoiding duplication of workloads and ensuring greater cost-effectiveness. With regard to paragraph IV.51 of that report, he would welcome additional details of the proposed functions of the two new P-3 posts so that an informed decision could be taken on whether or not they should be created.

66. Mrs. BRENNEN-HAYLOCK (Bahamas) said that her Government had consistently supported the Secretary-General's proposals in the field of crime control, and noted that both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council had repeatedly called for the strengthening of measures in that field and for a more precise definition of the role of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna.

67. Regarding the question of cooperation between the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) raised in paragraph IV.52 of the Advisory Committee's report, she noted that such cooperation had been the subject of at least two reports to the Third Committee.

68. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that United Nations activities in the field of crime control had always been very clear-cut, particularly in the areas of norm-setting and the provision of technical assistance by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. Recent years had witnessed increasing requests for technical assistance support and the Branch had therefore shifted its resources in that direction. Despite the increase in demand for its services, the Branch still had a relatively small staff of 20 people. Referring to paragraph 13.8 of the proposed programme budget (A/50/6), he pointed out that 30 per cent of the regular budget resources and almost all the extrabudgetary resources had been allocated to subprogramme 1, which included such advisory services.

69. With regard to the status and functions of the head of the programme, he drew the Committee's attention to a staffing table of the United Nations Office at Vienna showing that the Director-General was not a full time Director-General. His supervisory role covered matters relating to outer space, crime prevention, the drug control programme and certain other areas. As the highest official of the United Nations in Vienna, his role was to provide leadership, maintain high-level contacts with Member States, and mobilize the resources of the criminal justice programme. In line with the proposal to upgrade the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch to a division, it was also proposed that the D-1 post of the Chief of the Branch should be reclassified to the D-2 level. The Chief of the Branch was responsible for the day-to-day running of the unit, which had seen the volume of its work triple in recent years. In the same connection, he referred to paragraph 13.19 of the proposed programme budget, which outlined the respective functions of the two additional P-3 posts requested.

Section 14. International drug control

70. Miss MONTAÑO (Bolivia), supported by Ms. BUERGO (Cuba), said that section 14 had been made a priority in the Medium-term plan and her delegation had therefore been concerned to note that no resources had apparently been appropriated for technical cooperation under subprogramme 4. She requested further information on the sources of funding in that area.

71. Mr. MUÑOZ (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union, endorsed United Nations efforts to strengthen the capacity of the drug control programme. He would, however, like to have more details about the functions of the two new P-3 posts that had been requested. It would also be helpful to learn what cooperation had been undertaken between the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/158.

72. Mr. GODA (Japan) said that his Government supported in principle the measures proposed by the Secretary-General in the field of international drug control, but noted that the same question was being debated in another Main Committee. His delegation therefore reserved the right to revert to the issue in the event of any subsequent programme budget implications arising.

73. Mr. MONGELLA (United Republic of Tanzania) reiterated the concerns expressed by the representatives of Bolivia and Cuba with regard to the apparent lack of appropriations for subprogramme 4. He was also distressed to note that much of the funding for drug control activities came from extrabudgetary resources, which were diminishing.

74. Mr. ODAGA-JALOMAYO (Uganda) endorsed the Advisory Committee's request for justification for the proposed redeployment of posts within the drug control programme (A/50/7, para. IV.57) and called on those States which were in a position to provide extrabudgetary funds to target their appropriations to the priority areas specified by the General Assembly.

75. Mr. HALBWACHS (Director of the Budget Division) explained that the normative functions of UNDCP were funded from the regular budget. Pursuant to

the establishment of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in 1991, technical cooperation activities had been funded from extrabudgetary resources, as illustrated in table 14.2 of the proposed programme budget. That explained why no regular budget resources had been allocated to that area.

76. He clarified that only one of the two additional P-3 posts requested was to be assigned to subprogramme 8; the other post was, in fact, to be assigned to subprogramme 7. A more detailed account of the proposed functions of those posts would be supplied in due course. In response to the request by the representative of Spain for more information about cooperation between the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, he referred to the comment made earlier by the representative of the Bahamas and undertook to provide the references to the relevant reports.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.